



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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DISASTER FIELD OFFICE
7401 Timberlake Road
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FEMA-1458-DR-VA
Commonwealth Situation Report #3
Thursday, April 3, 2003

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

12:00 am *Thursday* April 3, 2003, through 12:00 am *Friday*, April 4, 2003. (*New Information is in italics*)

2. SITUATION:

A major winter storm struck Virginia beginning February 15 causing major flooding in Southwest Virginia and significant ice and snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley and areas of Northern Virginia. The weather pattern continued to bring warmer temperatures, melting snow/ice and more heavy rainfall, which combined to cause more local flooding.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency on February 16, 2003, to speed state agency assistance and resources to localities in need. The counties of Accomack, Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester declared emergencies.

The Governor requested the federal Public Assistance program (PA) on February 28th for snow and/or flooding for the following localities: the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Bland, Buchanan, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Highland, Lee, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester.

The Governor requested the federal Individual Assistance program (IA) on March 4th for these winter storm events in the counties of Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Prince William, Roanoke including the Town of Vinton, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Roanoke, Salem and Winchester.

A Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1458-DR-VA) was declared on March 27, 2003. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell and Wise and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem were designated for Individual Assistance (IA). Public Assistance (PA) is available for the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Orange and Rappahannock and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Winchester. A Disaster Field Office was opened in Lynchburg on March 31, 2003. The hours of operation are 7:00am – 6:00pm, daily.

3. WEATHER

Sunny this afternoon with temperatures in the low 80s with winds ranging from 5-10 mph. Mostly clear tonight with lows in the 50s. Friday is forecasted to be partly sunny with isolated showers and temperatures in the upper 70s.

4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- A. Implement strategies to distribute information to affected areas in Community Relations (CR) and Human Services (HR).
- B. Coordinate with FEMA on additional Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) and add-ons and DRC locations.
- C. Complete Disaster Field Office (DFO) set-up.
- D. Housing strategy coordination Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC).
- E. Mitigation strategy coordination.
- F. Public Assistance strategy coordination.
- G. Obtain signatures for FEMA/State agreement.
- H. Training for staff on Individual Household Program.
- I. Establish training component for DFO.

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:

A. Individual Assistance (IA):

- *Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC): Reviewing applicant registration information in the declared jurisdictions in order to determine the need for fixed or mobile Disaster Recovery Centers to assist applicants with questions or registration issues.*
 - *Coordination is being made for the establishment of a fixed Disaster Recovery Center in the Salem/Roanoke area.*
 - *Consideration is being given to locating a fixed or mobile DRC in the counties of Tazewell and Wise to serve the needs of the declared jurisdictions in SW Virginia.*

- *Local Initial Damage Assessments (IDA): Localities for potential “add on” to this disaster declaration have been identified and State personnel will be begin validating their damage assessments.*
- *Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA): The State Fire Marshall’s Office has agreed to assist with the PDAs for Individual Assistance. Training is scheduled for 1300 hours, Sunday April 6, 2003.*
- *Arrival of Additional Staff:*
 - *DRC Coordinator – William Lloyd*
 - *DRC Manager - Ray Stout*
- *Initial Damage Assessments (IDA): Validation of local IDAs IAW 44 CFR 206.33(a) commences with an anticipated completion date of COB Sunday, April 6, 2003.*
- *The number of teleregistrations in declared localities is 372 and in non- declared localities is 16 .*

B Public Assistance (PA):

- *Conducting applicants briefing in Culpeper.*
- *Working with local jurisdictions to up date eligible cost for PDA for flooding.*
- *Working with FEMA and NOAA to obtain additional snowfall information for possible snow declarations.*
- *Plan to conduct kick-off meeting with the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority.*

C. Community Relations (CR):

- *FEMA/State teams have been deployed to the declared localities and briefed on Community Relations activities for the field.*
- *Field officers received training in IHP (Individuals and Households Program).*

D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):

- *Coordinating mitigation and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) staffing.*
- *Currently finalizing a Hazard Mitigation Plan for 1458-DR-VA.*
- *Currently contacting the six Planning District Commissions(PDC) which are actively developing all natural hazards plans.*
- *Deborah Mills, Flood Plain Management Program Planner for the Department of Conservation and Recreation arrived at the DFO April 2, 2003. She will be working out of the DFO on NFIP compliance issues with participating NFIP communities.*

E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):

- *Disseminated media advisory about Joint Information Center (JIC) contacts and DFO opening.*
- *Disseminated news release promoting FEMA's teleregistration number.*
- *Continued work on first issue of Recovery Times.*
- *Drafting news releases for anticipated Disaster Recovery Center openings, first check distribution for Individual Assistance and SBA joint statement.*
- *Drafting news release encouraging residents affected by the disaster to call 1-800-624-FEMA*
- *Targeting media in undeclared areas and disseminating news releases, Public Service Announcements (PSA) and doing interviews with them.*
- *Sending public affairs personnel, in conjunction with community relation's Staff, to Roanoke and New River Valley to disseminate flyers to public.*

F. Legislative Liaison:

- *Continued notification of state senators and delegates of declared jurisdictions.*
- *Advised elected state officials in requested but not declared jurisdictions of on-going evaluation of damages.*
- *Develop lines of communication with state elected officials.*

G. Information and Planning:

- *Completed an e-mail listing of local administrators and emergency coordinators for the purpose of electronic mailing of Situation Reports (SITREP).*
- *Request Branch Daily Status Report forms by noon daily for input into the SITREP.*

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Michael M. Cline, SCO